

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL**  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2010**

**I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

- Mayor Binnie called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Council members in attendance: Morgan, Ratzlaff, Binnie, Bhardwaj, Fulkerson.
- City Staff in attendance: City Manager Steve Albright, City Clerk Gabriel Adams, Police Chief Ken Thrailkill.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION**

Personnel Issue: Section 54957(b), City Manager

**IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

Mayor Binnie reported that the Council voted unanimously to continue CM contract for another year with a salary adjustment to be considered in the future. **Passed unanimously.**

**V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- Item 3 on the discussion agenda will be considered first.

Motion (Fulkerson/Ratzlaff) to approve the consent agenda as amended. **Passed unanimously.**

**VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**December 09, 2009 cc**

Motion (Fulkerson/Bhardwaj) to approve the minutes as corrected. **Passed unanimously.**

**VII. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

Binnie:

- **HCAOG:** Approved the Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan and elected new officers.
- **Trails:** At the Jan.06 closed session meeting, the Council instructed the City Attorney to continue his research in preparation of anticipated litigation.
- **Planning:** Received a letter from the Planning Commission asking the Council to take action on the proposed Moss subdivision on Fox Farm Rd. The Planning Commission also recommended that the City Council draft the OWTS implementation guidelines.

Bhardwaj:

- **Planning Commission:** Land Use Element of the General Plan should come before the Council soon, and the Vacation Rental Committee make-up reflects Councilmember Morgan's vision, not hers.
- Thanked Mayor Binnie and his wife for touching up the paint in Town Hall, and expressed gratitude for the city's response to the residents following last week's earthquake.

Morgan:

- **Emergency Response:** Thanked the Police and Fire Departments for a great response to the 6.5 earthquake Saturday night.

Fulkerson:

- **WAVE ENERGY:** Thanked the Mayor and his wife for picking up litter voluntarily throughout town, and also thanked the emergency services for earthquake response.

Ratzlaff:

- **RCEA:** Nothing to report.

**VIII. STAFF REPORTS**

City Manager - Albright: Summarized staff activities report and highlighted various other accomplishments. Also noted that the City doesn't have earthquake insurance.

Police Chief – Thrailkill: Provided a brief earthquake summary. Zero damage or overtime reported. Also compiling 2009 stats.

City Clerk – Adams: The City is accepting Christmas Trees and other greenwaste for chipping/recycling at the corner of View and Murphy's Alley. Thanked Saunders Family for offering the space for drop-off.

## **IX. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR**

*(Three (3) minute limit per Speaker unless Council approves request for extended time.)*

**Richard Johnson** – Trinidad Chamber of Commerce

Announced the upcoming Trinidad to Clam Beach Run scheduled for Saturday, February 06, and thanked supporters in advance.

## **X. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Staff Activities Report through December, 2009
2. Financial Status Reports for November, 2009
3. Resolution 2010-02 Authorizing the City of Trinidad to Participate in Multi-Jurisdictional
4. Telecommunications Planning and Funding Opportunities
5. Participation in Countywide Energy Conservation Loan Program

*Motion (Bhardwaj/Fulkerson) to approve the consent agenda. **Passed unanimously.***

## **XI. AGENDA ITEMS**

1. PG&E Wave Energy Presentation

City Manager Albright explained that at the last City Council meeting, the Council requested that there be an information presentation regarding the WaveConnect Project. This is a wave energy effort being proposed and coordinated by PG&E. Councilwoman Julie Fulkerson and City Attorney Paul Hagen serve on a committee that is involved with the proposed project.

Councilmember Fulkerson introduced Alison Talbott from PG&E. She presented the following information:

- Study area location
- Shore landing diagrams and trenching description
- Request for proposal highlights (4 designs chosen)
- Humboldt Working Group members
- Accomplishments to date
- Anticipated timeline and conclusion

Talbott also introduced Dr. Howard, HSU Marine Lab Director & Associate Dean. Howard thanked the Council for their support and explained how the Wave Connect project is benefiting HSU. Talbott concluded by announcing the upcoming meeting at the Eureka Veteran's Hall.

*No decision was made. Information item only.*

2. Consideration of Membership in Humboldt Waste Management Authority

City Manager Albright explained that at its meeting on May 14, 2008, the Council passed Resolution 2008-11 requesting that the City of Trinidad become a member of the Humboldt Waste Management Authority (HWMA). There has been no action since that date, and the City is still not a member of the Authority. At that time, the HWMA was having financial difficulties that made the timing of the new membership questionable, but those financial issues have since been addressed.

In considering its decision to join the HWMA, the Council may want to consider:

- Benefits of joining the HWMA;
- Potential negative impacts if Trinidad does NOT join the HWMA;
- Requirements on City or HWMA if the City joins the HWMA; and
- Cost to join the HWMA

Jim Test, Executive Director of the HWMA, explained some of the advantages of joining HWMA:

- Trinidad's trash goes through the HWMA facility and pays tipping fees.
- A regional reporting agency will likely be formed. This would eliminate the hassles of misallocated garbage spiking Trinidad's diversion rate and create a shared rate for the entire county.
- Establish flow-control (aka Franchise) with waste hauler.
- Guarantee that Trinidad will continue to receive the benefit of special event recycling collection programs hosted by HWMA.

Council comments included:

**Binnie:** Will this change our current garbage collection service? Test stated that it is unlikely that the service would change.

**Bhardwaj:** We're basically making "official" an existing "unofficial" partnership.

Public comment included:

**Pat Morales** - Trinidad

Confirmed that regional reporting would solve the problem of misallocated garbage affecting Trinidad's diversion status.

*Motion (Fulkerson/Ratzlaff) to reaffirm the City of Trinidad's desire to join the HWMA. **Passed unanimously.***

3. Sublease of Office Space with the Greater Trinidad Chamber of Commerce.

City Manager Albright explained that at the City Council Meeting on December 9, 2009, the Council considered a consent calendar item to extend the current sub-lease with the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce for six months at zero cost. There was some confusion at the meeting as to the Chamber Board's preferred course of action on this item, so it was continued for a month to this meeting. The existing sub-lease was to expire on December 31, 2009.

At its meeting on January 5, 2010, the Chamber Board voted to accept a proposal from the City Manager. It was stressed that this is a recommendation from the Manager only at this time and that any action would have to be approved by the City Council. The proposal includes the following three items:

1. That the Council offer a zero-cost lease for the next six months (1/1/10-6/30/10).
2. During that time there be shared use of the space between the City and the Chamber and some arrangement will be made toward scheduling the use of the space and controlling the access to the space, and
3. That the Chamber annually report to the City Council its use of any funds received from the City for tourism promotion and marketing.

If the Council were to agree to this arrangement, it would translate to an additional contribution to the Chamber of Commerce of \$1,200 from the current year's budget. If the Council does not agree and offers some other arrangement (if any), then that would have to be considered by the Chamber Board of Directors at its next meeting. If no action is taken, then the current lease expires and the Chamber will have to vacate the office.

Public comment included:

**Chi-Wei Lin** – Trinidad

I don't understand the logic behind this. The City can't gift public funds to private entities. The City Attorney should review the proposal.

**Pat Morales** – Trinidad

I don't support this proposal. The City already gives money each year to the Chamber and HCCVB.

Council comments included:

**Morgan:** HCCVB brings people to Humboldt, and the local chambers draw visitors to their cities.

**Fulkerson:** First I hear there's not enough money in the Chamber's bank account to pay rent. Then I heard the reserve was between \$60,000-80,000. Then we find out that the Chamber gave \$10,000 to the Library. Will someone please explain what's going on here?

**Morgan:** Apologized for the mess, and explained that the Chamber committed \$5,000 to the library this year, and an additional \$5,000 next year. The reserve, in my opinion, should be spent supporting the town, not covering operating expenses.

**Bhardwaj:** This has turned into a big flap. We should simply accommodate the chamber like we do other groups requesting the use of city facilities. The office hasn't successfully functioned as a tourism hot-spot like many had hoped.

*Motion (Bhardwaj/Fulkerson) to not approve a sublease, but cooperate with the Chamber when use of the space is requested. **Passed unanimously.***

4. Traffic Safety Improvements on Edwards Street

City Manager Albright explained that the issue of traffic safety on Edwards Street has been raised a number of times over the past two years. The discussion has expanded also to include Trinity Street because the two problems are linked.

To date, the following actions have taken place:

- City-wide speed survey at selected locations;
- Temporary placement of stop signs at the intersection of Edwards Street and Trinity Street;
- Temporary placement of stop signs at the intersection of Trinity Street and Main Street;
- A public meeting of area residents to hear their concerns and suggestions for addressing the problem;
- A field analysis by a registered traffic engineer from Winzler and Kelly, the City's contract engineering firm.

Minor modifications that may be directed by the City Council can most likely be accommodated in this year's budget under the varied categories of "Street Maintenance" and/or "Traffic Safety." These items are primarily funded by the Prop1B Grant received in 2008.

Police Chief Ken Thrailkill presented a detailed staff report followed by a power-point presentation that included the following information:

- Safety recommendations made by residents at a public meeting held on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009.
  - Install all-way stop controls at Main & Trinity and Trinity & Edwards.
  - Install crosswalks at Town Hall & Trinidad School, and Edwards & Trinity.
  - Increase length of red curb along Edwards.
  - Relocate centerline along Edwards.
- Recommendations made by a traffic engineer from Winzler & Kelly, which, in many cases, disagreed or conflicted with the public's recommendations.
- Unofficial speed limit on Edwards.

Public comment included:

**Chi-Wei Lin** – Trinidad

The biggest problem is excessive speed. I live on Edwards and I see it everyday. The Engineer didn't address our primary concern, and the Police Department didn't communicate our needs adequately to the engineer. A citizen's committee should be formed to make recommendations to the City Manager. This is our town, and we want action.

**Jane Robin, Pat Morales, and Donna Lin** all shared experiences of entering onto Edwards from driveways, admitted to driving fast w/o consequence, complained about speeding vehicles, driving in the opposite lane, and various other complaints. Donna Lin also criticized the traffic engineer and city staff on numerous occasions, and accused the city of wasting its money on the analysis.

**Thrailkill** repeatedly explained that a full engineering analysis would be required prior to the implementation of most of the traffic calming solutions outlined in his report. He also warned the Council that failure to comply with the vehicle code & traffic safety standards could place the city liable for accidents.

Council comments included:

**Bhardwaj:** This is getting out of control. What started out to be a legitimate concern has become incredibly complicated. I suggest we act on simple recommendations tonight, and discuss other alternatives at a future

meeting. I attended a street conference last year that offered many progressive solutions that I think we can experiment with. More discussion is necessary.

**Fulkerson:** I agree with Bhardwaj that a sophisticated solution is necessary.

*Motion (Bhardwaj/Morgan) to:*

- a) Extend the red-paint on curbs out from driveway intersections to increase visibility of on-coming traffic.*
- b) Authorize the formation of an Edwards Street Safety Advisory Committee.*
- c) Bring a resolution to legitimize the 20mph speed limit on Edwards Street.*

**Passed unanimously.**

5. Update Report on City Website

City Manager Albright explained that in April 2009, the City contracted with David Peake Designs to design, construct, and implement a new website for the City. The work was also to include website hosting and conversion from the existing website host and email to a new provider. The contract amount was for \$1,500.

By the end of June, significant work had been done on the project, but it was far from complete. As a result, a portion of the work under the agreement was completed and paid for under the previous year's budget, and the remainder was placed in the new year's budget (under the general category of "municipal expenses").

While work progressed during the summer and periodic progress reports were provided to the Council, the web site was not put "online" until October, 2009. It was still far from complete, but the format and structure, a calendar, and some of the basic information were included.

While a website is never "finished" because it is continually being updated, this project has taken far too long to complete, and it is still not providing the level of information demanded by many people. Staff is being educated on how to update and make changes to the site. The lack of completion is not the fault of the designer, but rather it is a function of other work priorities on the part of the City staff.

As a result of public criticism, complaints, and the fact that much improvement is still needed, remedial actions have and will still be taken to improve the site.

Public comment included:

**Chi-Wei Lin** – Trinidad

Having the packet available online is a huge improvement. Thank you.

**Richard Johnson** – Baker Ranch Area

It also would be helpful if the packet was available on the big screen at council meetings.

**Kim Tays** – Trinidad

The old site was great. All the controversial issues are important to me, and I urge you to use caution when deleting files from the server list. I should have access to city records from home, at my convenience.

City Manager Albright reminded the audience that there was no legal requirement to have a website.

*No decision was made.*

**XII. COUNCIL REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

- Meeting ended at 9:45pm.

**Submitted by:**

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**Gabriel Adams**  
City Clerk

**Approved by:**

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**Stan Binnie**  
Mayor